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***Mahoning County Data Processing Department Created Seamless
Transition to Daylight Savings Time***

Auditor Michael Sciortino, Secretary and Administrator of the Mahoning County Data Processing Board, announced today that two months of preparation allowed the Data Processing Department to patch all the county systems with a seamless transition to Daylight Savings Time three weeks earlier than normal in accordance with the Energy Policy Act.

The IT Department began working in January to meet the March 12th, 2:00 a.m. deadline. Much of the project time in January was to determine what systems actually would be affected by the time change. In February, implementation began and overall, Mahoning County IT patched roughly 1,000 Windows based PCs, 36 servers, including some mission critical applications, as well as email servers, and Disk Storage Systems. Additionally, the equipment running the County's converged voice and data network has to be patched, including all routing equipment, security software & devices, and 21 Phone systems.

There were a few minor setbacks. "Only about 2% of the County PC's did not take the patch correctly and our 5 largest phone systems had to be reset once, accounting for about 10 minutes of downtime," stated Jacob Williams, Director of Information and Technology for the Data Processing Department.

Williams further stated "We used the implementation time pretty efficiently, as we updated our documentation, standardized many of our systems, and resolved the DST issue in one pass. I think we did a great job overall, comparing our problems to those some other organizations have experienced. We have over 100 work-hours in the preparation and implementation of this system update; a worthwhile investment on the front end compared to the costs of a less aggressive approach and retro-active solutions."

Sciortino agrees. "Mahoning County IT is the standard by which all other County IT departments should model themselves. We do more with less funding and staffing due in part to our centralized approach to Voice and Data Services and, obviously, the hard-working professionals on staff."

For further information, please contact Michael Sciortino at 330-740-2010.

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